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Message Text

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20
ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 IGA-02 EB-11 L-03

DRC-01 /146 W
---------- 075108
R 060401Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7567
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0956

E.O..
7111W HTAC GDS
TAGS: EAID, LA
SUBJECT: RESCHEDULING OF POSTWAR INDOCHINA MEETING

REF: STATE 022110

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1. THE DEFERMENT OF THE IDA MEETING ON INDOCHINA

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RECONSTRUCTION FROM FEBRUARY TO MAY RAISES AN IMPORTANT QUESTION WHICH I BELIEVE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY THE INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES. ALTHOUGH WE CAN GIVE NO ASSURANCE AT THIS TIME THAT THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION WILL HAVE BEEN FORMED BY MAY, THE PROGRESS CURRENTLY BEING MADE ON THE POLITICAL FRONT IN LAOS MAKES THIS APPEAR VERY PROBABLE. SHOULD THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN FORMED BY MAY IT APPEARS TO US FROM THE ADMITTEDLY PAROCHIAL VIEW OF THIS MISSION THAT RECONSTRUCTION SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO LAOS MIGHT WELL BE DISCONNECTED FROM SIMILAR PROGRAMS BEING DISCUSSED FOR CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. EVEN TODAY WITH A CEASE-FIRE WHICH HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE FOR NEARLY ONE YEAR THE SITUATION IN LAOS DIFFERS MARKEDLY FROM THAT IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. WE THEREFORE QUESTION WHETHER IT IS ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE LAO OR TO THE U.S. TO KEEP LAOS LINKED TO "INDO-CHINA" RECONSTRUCTION WHEN THE SITUATION IN EACH COUNTRY DIFFERS SO MARKEDLY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HERETOFORE INCONCLUSIVE ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE UNDER IBRD AUSPICES BUT BELIEVE THAT CONTINUING ON THE SAME CONCEPTUAL TRACK ON WHICH WE GOT UNDERWAY A YEAR AGO MAY WELL BE A MISTAKE.

2. THE PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH ON THIS QUESTION WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.
WHITEHOUSE

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